

The present English translation of the official document „Richtlinie zum strukturierten Promotionsprogramm gemäß § 13 Abs. 4 der Promotionsordnung des Promotionszentrums NITRO der Hochschulen TH Augsburg, TH Deggendorf und HaW Landshut“ is not legally binding and serves for information purposes only.

Guidelines for the structured doctoral programme in accordance with Section 13 para. 4 of the doctoral regulations (PromO) of the doctoral center NITRO of the universities TH Augsburg, TH Deggendorf and HaW Landshut

from June 1, 2025

The structured doctoral programme serves to ensure the quality of the doctoral proceedings. These guidelines help to ensure that the doctoral proceedings are carried out well and in an efficient manner. It serves as a guide for doctoral candidates and supervisors and addresses the following issues in supplementation of the doctoral regulations (PromO):

1. Supervision agreement (according to section 12 para. 1 & 2 PromO)

Upon admission to the doctoral center NITRO, doctoral candidates and their supervisors shall sign the supervision agreement and draw up a work plan for the completion of the doctorate. This work plan shall serve as the basis for further feedback meetings during the course of the doctorate, which should take place at least once per semester. It can be adapted in the course of the doctoral process.

2. Participation in academic publishing (according to section 13 para. 1 PromO)

The NITRO Doctoral Center attaches great importance to scientific publications in order to promote academic careers. Doctoral students are expected to publish research results during their doctoral studies via relevant publication channels, whereby at least two scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals or in peer-reviewed conference proceedings must have been accepted as lead authors by the time the doctoral procedure is opened. Doctoral students must present and discuss their research results at at least one scientifically recognized conference during their doctoral studies.

3. Annual reports within the structured doctoral programme (according to section 13 para. 3 nr. 1 PromO)

Based on the feedback meetings referred to in point 1., doctoral candidates and their supervisors shall draw up a short list of the steps taken in the doctoral process, including any adapted work plan. The information that the meeting has taken place shall be reported to the THA Graduate School.

4. Interim report within the structured doctoral programme (according to section 13 para. 3 nr. 2 PromO)

After three years at the latest, an interim report on the status of the dissertation shall be presented in the form of an academic presentation to the doctoral center within the framework of an academic colloquium at one of the universities constituting the doctoral center. In accordance with point 3, the interim report replaces the annual report for the respective year. All members of the doctoral center shall be invited to this colloquium. In addition, doctoral candidates shall submit a written research outline of 5–8 pages to the doctoral committee in advance; this must address the following aspects:

- State of the scientific knowledge/state of research
- Research question
- Method
- Data
- If applicable, initial research results/research contributions
- Work plan for the remainder of the doctoral phase.

If necessary, the doctoral committee can arrange an appointment with the doctoral candidate to clarify any problems in the doctoral process.

5. Participation in academic qualification courses (according to section 13 para. 3 nr. 3 PromO)

In order to be able to open the doctorate proceedings, in addition to submitting the dissertation (monograph or publication-based dissertation: framework paper and papers in accordance with the guidelines for publication-based dissertations), evidence must be provided that the doctoral candidate has participated in the following courses or can provide evidence of corresponding competences (review by the doctoral committee):

1. Good academic practice and avoidance of academic misconduct (2 ECTS), and ethics and data protection (1 ECTS)
2. Research data management (1 ECTS)
3. Didactics/university teaching (2 ECTS)

In addition, it is recommended that doctoral candidates take part in further qualification modules, e.g. on research methods, academic writing or project management. These include in particular the qualification programmes offered by the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg, the Deggendorf Institute of Technology and Landshut University of Applied Sciences.

6. Teaching (according to section 13 para. 3 nr. 4 PromO)

The independent designing and supervision of teaching courses totaling four semester hours per week (SWS) is mandatory. Courses can be lectures, practicals/tutorials or tuition in the form of a seminar over one or more semesters. In addition, doctoral candidates can be involved in the supervision of student's final (Bachelor's and Master's) theses. These can be credited with a maximum of one SWS towards the four SWS.